

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

After parsing the text input the entries for the first 32, second 34 and third 36 fields can be recorded for each entry. The input to the fourth field may be input predictively or responsively. For responsive input, when the controller sends a text group to the TTS engine it also sends the text group ID. The TTS engine stores the received text group IDs in the order in which they are received in a FIFO 16. When a text portion has been converted to speech it pops the FIFO to returns the text group ID identifying the text group which has just been converted as signal 18 to the controller. When the controller receives this ID it records the time from its internal clock in the fourth field against those entries which have the same text group ID in their second field as the returned text group ID. For predictive input, an approximation is used for the time taken on average to convert a word (or character) to speech from when it is sent to the TTS engine. This is a parameter of the TTS engine 16. From the database 30, the number of words (and characters) including punctuation in a text group can be calculated and an estimate of the time at which the text group will be converted to speech deduced. The expected time of conversion for each text group is deduced. For each text group the appropriate time is recorded the fourth field for the each entry which identifies that text group in its second field.

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application: